



# Lighthouse Beacon

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## "I AM THE GREATEST" (*Famous Last Words*) – by Teus Kappers

Not long after Muhammad Ali made the above statement he was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. It was sad to see this "tree of a man" slowly deteriorate from this condition.

Ali's statement reminded me of the story of king Nebuchadnezzar (Book of Daniel). Chapter 4 v.30 states: "Is not this the great Babylon which I have built...by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty." Soon after this God reduced the king's life to something like that of an animal. It remained so until he repented and gave God the Glory for his life and kingdom.

Although I have no interest in boxing, Maria (my wife) and I have had interesting encounters with two boxing champions. The first was Eddie, from Nigeria. Because of his boxing credentials, this very tough-looking deck seafarer had no problems with other seamen. When we first met Eddie in England we had no idea who he was and, as with all the others on his ship, we shared the Gospel with him in his Ibo language. A few days later, Eddie bowed before the Lord Jesus and trusted Him as his Saviour. For many years his ship returned and we had sweet fellowship together.

Maria and I also had an interesting boxing-related encounter on a flight from Paris to Yemen. A large group of happy Yemeni passengers occupied much of the plane and we discovered that "Prince" Naseem was onboard. Unfamiliar with this person, my innocent inquiry about the "Prince's" identity (actual name: Naseem Hamed) was met with surprised looks and disgust. When I met Naseem I was surprised to see a smaller, young man dressed in jeans, not a stately-looking, robe-clad dignitary I had expected. "What kind of prince are you?" I asked. "I am the world champion boxer on a state visit to Yemen, the country of my forefathers." "Oh," I said. "If you are a boxer, I am sure you have never had a fight at 30,000 feet." "No," he said. "[But] there is always a first [time]." He then said, "May I ask you where you are from?" "I am CANADIAN," I answered. "Just a minute," Naseem said, and then, at the top of his voice, cried out, "TIMBERRRRRRR!" (the loggers' warning that a tree is about to fall). I was so happy he did not cut me down and all of us were rolling in laughter.

In Prov. 16 v 18 Scripture reveals: "Pride comes before the fall." One doesn't have to be a champ to suffer from pride; it can affect anyone. That is why it is so important to give God the Glory for the great things He has done.

## My Testimony—by Seafarer Ian P. Cape

[Edited for clarity and length]

I would like to share the testimony of maybe the saddest experience of my life.

I am Mr. Ian Cape, a Filipino seaman. Most of my life I have been working away from my wife and daughter in order to secure a *greener pasture* for us. As I climbed to higher ranks in my work, worldly needs came along and so the worldly satisfaction. At times I forgot to thank the Lord for all the blessings I was receiving.

When my ship was trading in Canada I met the Lighthouse ministry team. They workers would come onboard and lead Bible study. We were happy to have them because the Word of the Lord they spread made us feel like lost sheep who had found their way back home. But, as we know, life has ups and downs.

One time a strong typhoon hit our home and we lost all our material possessions. Our house was a mess and our car rendered useless. But, even now I'm still thankful that I never lost my family. I remembered the story of Job I had read in a Lighthouse Ministry Bible and would declare that life must go on and I must remain thankful. For 3 years I was aboard a ship that regularly sailed to Canada and, therefore, always met Lighthouse people for Bible study. It is a different environment onboard when your crew is always enlightened by the Lord's word.





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The year 2013 was the happiest year of my life and also the saddest. Happiness resulted when my family's extended prayers for a child were heard and my wife got pregnant. Also, our dream house was soon to be ours, my daughter was doing great at school and I was to be promoted to a captain's rank. But, happiness was dashed again when, while at sea, I learned that there was something wrong with our unborn angel. Then, a month before my wife gave birth, onboard we learned that my area of the Philippines was about to be hit by the strongest typhoon ever recorded. About nine of us (from the most devastated region) on the ship experienced a week of torture as we heard that thousands of people had died, but we could not communicate with our families because of the typhoon. All we could do was pray. After many failed attempts, I finally contacted my wife and learned that, pregnant, she had driven about eight hours and escaped the city where thousands of lifeless bodies were lying around. Hospitals were damaged and so was our unpaid dream house. My wife also had to ride a bus for about 17 hours to get to a Manila hospital where she could deliver our angel.

On November 30<sup>th</sup> 2013 my wife gave birth while I was aboard a ship in Nanaimo, B.C. I was teary-eyed that day because our baby Angel had Edward's Syndrome and we were informed that she might not last 2 days.

At about 6 p.m. in Canada my crew called me because of a problem with the ship's gangway due to low tide. While we were fixing it the gangway fell and caught me on the back. I felt tremendous pain for about 5 seconds, I think, and then numbness. I still remember the words that came out of my mouth: "WHY NOW?" Then I remembered my wife and daughter.



Ian at Victoria General Hospital, where all hope seems gone and walking impossible...

I was brought to Nanaimo Hospital for emergency treatment and then transferred to Victoria. The following day (1<sup>st</sup> of December) I learned from my brother that, about forty minutes after my accident, our little angel had passed away. I shed many tears during those days.

Around the time of my accident, three people (my cousin, Grandma and uncle) also died. I was experiencing the reality of the saying, "when it rains it pours."

Again I remembered the story of Job and was inspired and strengthened. But, although I would always pray in my room, as I lay helpless in hospital I wondered how I would be

able support my family because it seemed that I would not be able to walk again.

People visited me from Tidal Company, the stevedores union and, of course, Brother Cecil Kleu (from Victoria Lighthouse Ministry). With their help, I was able to weather *the storm* I was experiencing. I was very grateful to brother Cecil for always dropping by the hospital to share some inspiring words, even when he was not feeling well. I would always read the Bible that he had given me. I received help from unexpected people and saw them as an army of angels sent from heaven to help me.

[Amazingly, Ian recovered from his accident and writes this:] Now I'm working in Japan in one of the biggest ship management companies. Here I find peace and more strength than before. I can't say that I'm having a perfect life right now, but I'm happy, have peace of mind and, as much as I can, am living by the word of the Lord.

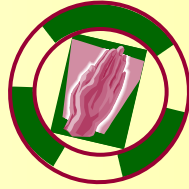
More Power to Lighthouse Ministry and may you continue to find and bring home the lost sheep.

God Bless you all!!!





## Prayer Porthole



Please petition the Lord with regard to the following:

- Thank the Lord for the revelation of His Son. (John 17:8).
- For the Lord to call a Ukrainian deck seafarer, V, to Himself.
- That a Filipino captain would humble himself under the mighty hand of God.
- That an Indian Muslim seafarer (M) would be called to Jesus.
- For a Nepali officer to read the New Testament and come to Jesus for salvation.
- That an Indian Hindu captain (L) would read the Gospel he received and find the Lord.
- That a Filipino Christian chief engineer (J) would be guided to the right employment.
- For four seafarers from Kiribati to receive Jesus as they read the New Testament.
- That E (an engine room seafarer) would come to know His purpose: to glorify Jesus.
- That M (a new-Christian Filipino officer) would get good answers to his spiritual questions.
- For R, a Filipino deck seafarer to distance himself from the J.W. teaching of his parents.
- That the Lord would guide a Bangladeshi officer to the truth and acceptance of Jesus Christ.
- That the Lord would guide J, a Christian Filipino seafarer, with regard to his future at sea.
- That B and J (two Filipino seafarers) would receive emotional healing from Jesus.
- For E, a Filipino chief engineer who believes he has “everything” to “lose” it all for Jesus.
- For the Lord to send out more workers into His harvest field among seafarers (Matt. 9:38).

## A Satisfying Evening—by Ian MacWilliams

A recent experience at the LHM Surrey Centre was a highlight for me. My son, Fraser, and I hosted a captain and his first officer and, although it is rare to have such a small group, it permitted more personal contact. The fellows gobbled up my wife's excellent baking and, after they had a time of connecting with home, I shared my testimony. Then, I discussed nautical themes from the Book of Hebrews and mentioned the importance of not allowing our attention to what Jesus said “*slip*” (like a drifting ship).

Jesus Christ was revealed to the seafarers as: “*the Captain of their Salvation*” and “*a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul.*” He was also described as the “*Forerunner*” who guides believing souls to Heaven. As a ship cannot enter port without a pilot, so we cannot enter Heaven without Christ: “*I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*” (John 14:6)

During the discussion, one fellow, although having been raised in a religious culture, knew that only the



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***“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.” (Matt. 5:5)***



**Indian Seafarers in Port**

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sacrifice of Christ was sufficient for salvation. The other man stated that he had searched for God and made a “commitment” as a younger man. Privately, he later asked me about the purpose of life. I answered that it was to glorify God and suggested that, just as Handel wrote music to glorify God, so, also, our lives should glorify God. This man was sincerely seeking answers, agreed to get to know the Lord Jesus better through the Scriptures and left promising to read John’s Gospel.

Our day had been profoundly punctuated by a satisfying evening spent with these men at the LHM Surrey Fraser Centre. May God bless His Word.



**Happy Feet Onboard**

Contributions to the Lord’s work at Lighthouse Harbour Ministries can be made by:

- Cash or cheque
- Visa and MasterCard
- Automatic debits to bank account
- Post-dated cheques
- Planned giving through wills, charitable bequests, life insurance etc

For more information regarding any of the above, feel free contact LHM at (604) 988-5084 or email: [info@sealight.org](mailto:info@sealight.org). If you have access to the internet you can also donate on-line via our secured web site at [www.sealight.org](http://www.sealight.org).

Thank you for considering LHM

### Lighthouse Harbour Ministries

#### Our Mission

To love and honour God by serving the seafarers of the world in Word and deed.

#### Senior Port Chaplain

Ray Hanna

#### Chaplain Emeritus

Teus Kappers

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### LHM Stewardship Policy:

*Spending of funds is confined to board approved programs and projects. Each restricted contribution designated towards a board approved program or project will be used as designated, with the understanding that when the need for such a program or project has been met, or cannot be completed for any reason determined by the board, the remaining restricted contributions designated for such program or project will be used where needed most.*



CANADIAN COUNCIL of CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

**“Then I saw a great white throne and Him Who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from His presence, and there was no place for them.”**

Revelation 20:11